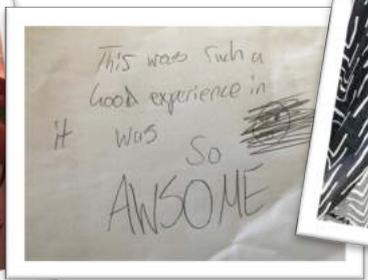


StoryBoard



What they said

“Best writing day ever for me. Loved it.”

“Today was amazing I have never had such a chance in my life. COME BACK.”

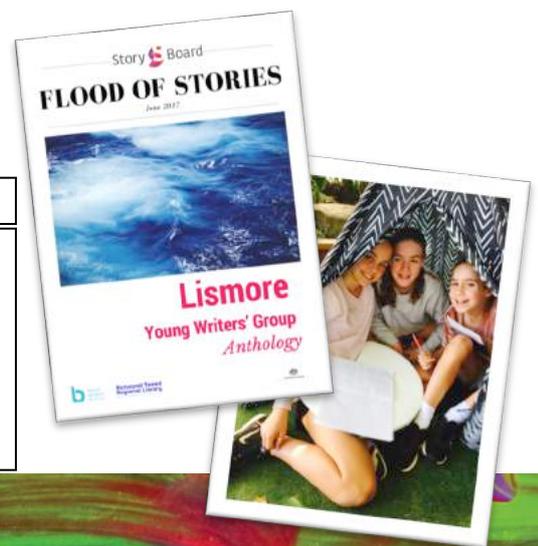
“Today was the best day in my life. I never thought I would ever get to be this special.”

“I never knew I loved writing as much as I do TODAY.”

“Students came back very motivated. Great to have students interact with a published author. Parents commented students came home "buzzing" about the experience.”

StoryBoard reached some 7500 Northern Rivers kids in 2017

In our first full year of operation Byron Writers Festival StoryBoard went off! Thanks to funding from the Australian Government’s Catalyst program, Create NSW, and Stronger Communities we created the StoryBoard bus, gathered a team of authors and storytellers, and hit the road, running StoryBoard’s creative writing workshops in schools and libraries across the NSW Northern Rivers, from Kempsey in the south to Tenterfield in the west and Tweed Heads in the north. We visited 87 schools, ran 105 workshops for almost 3000 kids, reached another 4000+ with presentations, had 400+ masterclass, school holiday, and festival attendances, and made two anthologies of young writers’ work.



School visits

- 87 school visits
- 105 workshops with 2979 kids
- Author talks for another 4064 kids.

Masterclasses

- 31 master classes with 363 attendances, producing two anthologies.

Special events

- Two author tours
- Three festival workshops
- One school holiday workshop.

Contents

Storyboard 2017 overview.....	2
The StoryBoard story.....	3
The StoryBoard bus.....	4
Local authors and visiting authors	5
What our authors said.....	6
The StoryBoard team.....	7
School visits and workshops.....	8
What students said	9
What teachers thought.....	11
Teacher comments	12
Masterclasses	13
The North Coast floods.....	14
Goals and achievements	15
Budget and expenditure.....	16
Storyboard presenters 2017	18
Storyboard activities 2017	20
The future.....	22



Storyboard is a program of Byron Writers Festival. Our vision is that StoryBoard workshops in schools will foster creativity and literacy in thousands of Northern NSW kids for years to come, creating the next generation of readers and writers – young people who are excited about literature, literacy and creative expression, and who are empowered with tools that help them create their futures.

Storyboard has been generously supported by the Australian Government’s Catalyst Program, Create NSW, and the Stronger Communities Program, as well as by Byron Writers Festival. This report has been written by the StoryBoard chair (and board member of Byron Writers Festival), Dr Jesse Blackadder.



The StoryBoard story

In 2014, Dave Eggers – author, storyteller, publisher and radical ambassador for kids’ creativity visited Sydney and spoke about his work on youth literacy in the inspiring organisation 826 Valencia in San Francisco.



It galvanised an idea that had already been stirring inside me for some time. I dreamt of starting up a kids’ creative writing centre – like those hiding behind the Pirate Supply Store in San Francisco, the Bigfoot Research Institute in Boston, the Time Travel Mart in Los Angeles and the Martian Embassy in Sydney – but in Northern NSW. I was the first author to visit St Mary’s primary school in Casino, and I had done creative writing workshops with kids in Lismore, Bexhill and Tunttable Creek, so knew first hand how hungry they were for stories and creativity. On indicators including social competence, communication skills and general knowledge, Northern Rivers kids scored lower than other parts of NSW. But our regional schools didn’t have a culture or tradition of author visits.

There are plenty of international and Australian role models – inspiring and successful creative writing centres for disadvantaged kids based on the ‘Valencia 826’ model. Behind the quirky shopfronts, kids delight in writing and publishing their work – while becoming more literate, creative and empowered. Founded in 2002, Valencia 826’s innovative

approach has seen thousands of volunteers help tens of thousands of children, and has inspired similar centres around the world.

In late 2014, when the Byron Writers Festival board and staff came together for a visioning day, I put forward the idea of a creative writing program for kids. Everyone was enthusiastic and excited, and the organisation gave seed funding.

The shopfronts were exciting, but we needed something that would work for a widely spread rural and regional audience. We decided to build on these innovative approaches to literacy and creativity and take them ‘on the road’.

So – instead of a shopfront, the StoryBoard bus takes our storytellers and tutors directly to schools to run free creative writing workshops for students. The StoryBoard bus personifies the creative ‘weirdness’ that make this approach work so well. And all of our Storytellers are authors in one form or another – mostly published authors of children’s literature.

Using innovation to encourage active literacy among children isn’t just about entertainment. It is a game changer, through which kids move out of disadvantage and win educations, jobs, and careers. Our aim is to foster creativity and literacy in thousands of Northern NSW kids for years to come, creating the next generation of readers and writers – young people who are excited about literature, literacy and creative expression, and who are empowered with tools that help them create their futures.

Jesse Blackadder
StoryBoard Chair



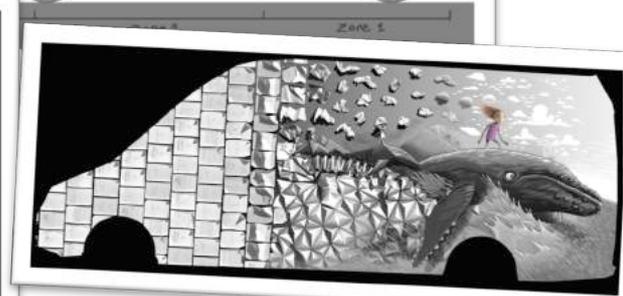
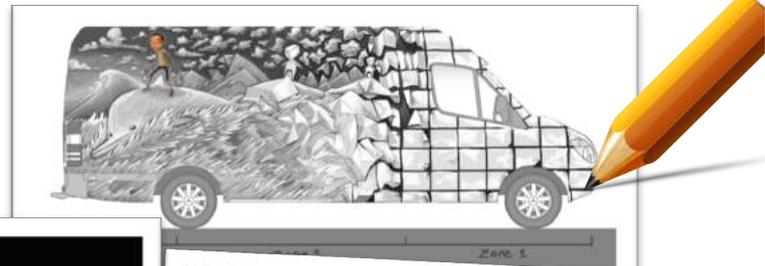
The StoryBoard Bus

In late 2016 we bought a second hand community transport bus. The next step, as 2017 dawned, was to turn it into something as crazy and weird as the Martian Embassy.

Illustrator Tony Flowers brainstormed with youngsters at Byron Writers Festival's Kids Big Day Out to dream up a 13-storey bus that farted fairy floss...

Local politicians Ben Franklin MLC and Justine Elliot MP lobbied for funds to make it a reality...

Designer Justine Wallace took the brief and set about making it come to life...



We unveiled the StoryBoard bus and launched the StoryBoard program at Byron Primary School in April 2017, with guest of honour the Australian Children's Laureate and internationally renowned author Leigh Hobbs.





Local authors

What makes StoryBoard unique is that workshops are run by professional storytellers – authors, illustrators and performers – supported by volunteer tutors. Kids are not only inspired to write – they get to see that creating stories is a profession.

In the pilot year our storytellers were two local authors – Tristan Banks and Samantha Turnbull, who led the charge and ran 22 school visits. In 2017 we expanded our team of local regular storytellers, plus employed visiting authors at the launch and on two tours. Local authors, who worked with StoryBoard in 2017 were:

- Tristan Bancks
- Zanni Louise
- Jesse Blackadder
- Lucas Proudfoot
- Samantha Turnbull
- Jeni Cargill-Strong
- Sarah Armstrong
- Carly Lorente
- Zacharey Jane

Visiting authors

Byron Writers Festival Road Trip brought to you by StoryBoard travelled to Casino, Glen Innes and Tenterfield with authors Sophie Green, Miles Merrill, Jennifer Down, and author/tour manager Zachery Jane.

StoryBoard Southern Road Trip travelled to Grafton, Bellingen, Kempsey and South West Rocks with authors Belinda Murrell and Oliver Phommavanh, driver Marianne Bragg and StoryBoard coordinator Gabby Le Brun.



What our authors said

As well as stimulating creativity and literacy in local kids, StoryBoard offers professionally paid employment (at Australian Society of Authors rates) to local authors, helping them build more sustainable careers and connect with their audiences. We also help create a collaborative team through our annual author development workshop.

Storyboard has changed my life as a regionally-based travelling author. In ten years of speaking about creativity, reading and literacy in schools around Australia I had done perhaps three paid school talks in Northern NSW in total, and around 50 each year in Brisbane and 50 each year in other cities.

Thanks to Storyboard I can now visit schools in my area, schools and kids who I often feel need more inspiration and encouragement to read and write than some of the more privileged schools I visit. I've seen students come alive when stories, creativity and reading are brought to life in engaging ways.

I have simultaneously been able to halve my number of annual drives to Brisbane (up to six-hours round-trip in traffic), leaving me more time to write, which has been revolutionary.

- Tristan Bancks

Storyboard has given me the invaluable opportunity to connect directly with hundreds of local children. Most children's authors need to supplement their royalties by touring schools, which usually means travelling away from home. Through StoryBoard I am able to be employed as an author, make a sufficient income and stay local. I'm also very grateful to work closely with very experienced and talented local authors, and feel part of a supportive creative network.

- Zanni Louise

Visiting schools with StoryBoard has been one of the best experiences of my life. There's no better feeling than knowing you've inspired a child, even in the tiniest way. It's been wonderful to meet the kids who read my books, but it's also been wonderful to read their stories. There are some amazingly talented young writers throughout northern NSW. I've enjoyed working with children through StoryBoard so much, that I started a Master of Teaching (Primary) at the beginning of 2017.

- Samantha Turnbull

I love working with high school students and sharing with them the writing tools I wish someone had taught me when I was in high school. And I really appreciate the chance of well-paid work close to home.

- Sarah Armstrong

Storyboard has been a great platform and support in my career as an emerging author. The school visits with Storyboard are a great way to connect with students directly whilst honing my craft as a writer and presenter. In 2017, I released my debut novel *The Proud Foothills*, which has been well supported by Storyboard, with consistent sales at all schools visited. Having grown up in the Northern Rivers, a lot of my story lines are inspired by the surrounding environment which the students can relate to instantly – which makes for a very productive session each time.

- Lucas Proudfoot



The StoryBoard team

Storyboard Coordinator

Our inaugural StoryBoard Coordinator Coralie Tapper ran the pilot project in 2016, and worked until the 2017 festival running the full StoryBoard program.

Already working as part of the festival, Gabby Le Brun, with a background in event management, contemporary performance, youth theatre and youth work, took up the role in August 2017.



Storyboard Steering Committee

Storyboard is overseen by a sub committee of Byron Writers Festival, comprising Jesse Blackadder (chair) and Lynda Hawryluk (SCU representative) – with significant help and support from the rest of the board and the wider staff of Byron Writers Festival.



Storyboard volunteers

We are grateful to our volunteer tutors, who travel to workshops with the authors and support them and the students – with kind words, suggestions, humour and encouragement. Thanks to Kate Beneke, Sharron Short, Cassandra Bennett, Lenore Cooper, Suzie Rosedale, Lisa Warmsley, Lisa Peacock, Leah Cranston, Hayley Katzen, and SCU intern Sharon Fearnside.

Storyboard bus drivers

Recognising the responsibilities involved in driving authors and volunteers in the StoryBoard bus, we paid a small stipend to two skilled drivers who also became beloved and highly valued volunteer tutors in workshops: Marianne Bragge and 'Naughty Andi' Davey with her magic hat of inspiration.



School visits and workshops

School visits were at the heart of StoryBoard’s activity in 2017. Our storytellers worked directly with kids to get them writing their own stories.

We made 76 primary school and 11 high school visits, (87 in total), where we ran 105 hands-on creative writing workshops for kids, ranging from 45 minutes to three hours long, in which kids wrote their own stories.

Some workshops were in classrooms, but wherever possible we took kids outside, in and around the StoryBoard bus, with our teepees. Through these workshops we reached 2979 kids between the ages of 7 and 17.

At the majority of schools, the visiting authors also gave presentations for groups of up to 200 students. Our authors shared their worlds – what it’s like to be a creator, what inspires them, and where ideas come from. We reached another 4064 kids with these presentations.



In the 100-year^{old} school, named St John's, an evil mastermind & her sidekick, manipulated the minds of 30 young students. She told us we were doing a "workshop" but she was brain washing us. I loved free writing and how we could do whatever.

I loved every exercise it was the best and only writing workshop ever! it was super fun I loved every single bit of it!! P.S they looked like the best books and please comeback next year!!
- blank

"Mum! Guess what I did get to experience today this amazing author and her naughty friend came to our school we did this really cool writing thing! This great honey what did you like about it? Ummm I liked the great people and I liked them they were back another time but they could have come a couple more teapeas but they did give you writing books." Oh cool we can use it for spelling "Yeah".

Thankx Andy & Jesse



We all went into the hall, she spoke about her life and her passion for writing... ~~how~~ it was the best when the names got called with cross fingers and a bit of luck I thought my name would be on the list but it wasn't tears started rolling through my eyes but knowing me this was not going to be the end I was going to make sure my name was going to be on the list in the end I convinced to let me... her name was Jesse

Thanks so much you have inspired me (loved our own) how you let us go on our own

My life everyday. I dont know what to write ~~anymore~~, why do I never know what to write but today was different, thank you so much naughty Andy and Jesse blackadder, I really liked how instead of just saying go write something we did activities to give us ideas on what to write. The only thing I didnt like was that we didnt have all day with you. ~~love~~ ~~love~~ Frankie



you would never believe this but last Tuesday the most most amazing Author of all time and the naughtiest pen who & puts the And in Andy came in to do a work with 32 lucky people it was soo fun some would say AWESOME!

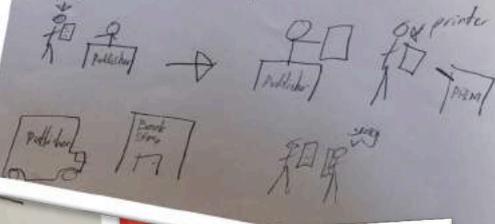
Aah A bit about the authour She goes by Jesse Blackadder and you asked, yes she got teased

HELPER

Andy is her name she know... best part was the setup of...

I really liked writing a story and i will continue my story in class

IN THE FUTURE



I loved it. The best thing that's happened at the school so far. Nature and us. Trees and Writing. Pencils continually scratching paper. It was absolutely perfect being outside and enjoying 'Magic'. Who ever does not believe in magic has never discovered writing.

Keep going to schools, having workshops, and helping career dreams come true.

Best of wishes,

Anonymous



fantastical
AMAZING
Supurb

I loved that I was taught that when you write you dont take your pencil off your page and just write whatever. but I wouldve liked if Jesse wrote into a song about how writing can take you anywhere



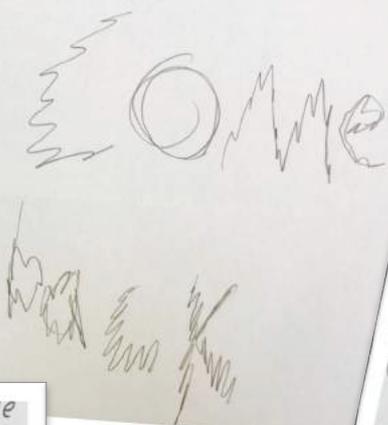
Today was fun because we got to
 write about whatever we want




Today was so inspiring!
 Fun as well.
 If you think I got bored at all then think again because
 it was not boring at all.
 best writing story lesson ever that has been in my life
 Thankyou thankyou thankyou for today.
 I can't say thankyou enough!



Today was amazing I have never
 had such a chance in my life



Today was the best day in my life
 I never thought I would ever get to be this
 special and learn about you and now I feel
 like you have just made my writing better
 and funner and I am so grateful you guys
 came. It was fun come back next year.

Ayla East

Thankyou



I enjoyed everything about this experience
 because I love reading and writing. I loved
 reading out my story for everyone to hear
 It was really awesome, please come back
 another time soon!



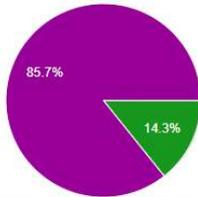
↑ Nougat
 Cornet
 Exploding
 Marshmallows



What the teachers thought

Content of Author Presentation

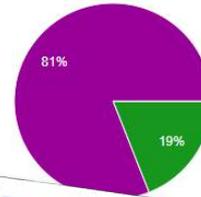
21 responses



- Poor
- Fair
- Satisfactory
- Very Good
- Excellent

Content of Author Workshop

21 responses

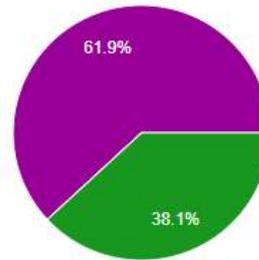
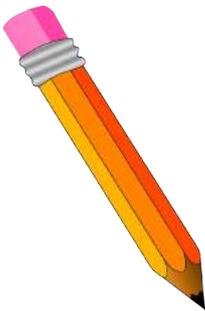


- Poor
- Fair
- Satisfactory
- Very Good
- Excellent
- Other (please add comments)



Student responsiveness and engagement to Author

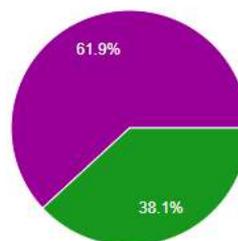
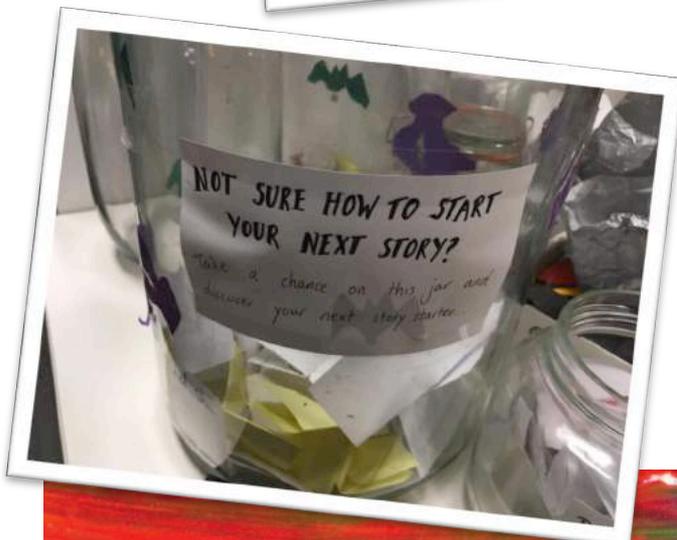
21 responses



- Poor
- Fair
- Satisfactory
- Very Good
- Excellent

Student responsiveness and engagement to workshop exercises

21 responses



- Poor
- Fair
- Satisfactory
- Very Good
- Excellent

Teacher comments

Byron Writers Festival has started the "Storyboard" program where authors visit the school and conduct a 2 hour writing workshop at no cost to the school. There is a unique van painted by a children's book illustrator. The van has pop up shelving and little tents and seats, which are used to conduct the writing workshop when the weather is dry. This year our visiting author was award-winning Tristan Bancks.

The day he visited our school was the same day our school was evacuated due to Ex -Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Tristan turned up and gave a fabulous presentation under very 'interesting' circumstances! The children who did manage to see him were transfixed and found him very entertaining. The workshop had to be cancelled for that day as the water was rising.

Tristan returned to our school at the start of this term to conduct the writing workshop. Tristan squashed us in to his very busy schedule and we really appreciate this! The workshop was awesome! A truly fabulous opportunity for the students who attended.

But wait! There's more! ByronWF has also contacted publishers around Australia who have generously donated books for our library - they are waiting until we have a place to put them!

I am incredibly grateful to BryonWF. I spent many years at different schools in western Sydney. I truly believe we are offered far greater opportunities here on the Far North Coast and the BryonWF is a HUGE contributor to making great moments happen! They provide experiences and leave children with positive life long memories.

- Carmel Evans (Teacher Librarian, Murwillumbah East Public School)

Best things about the workshop:

"Students came back very motivated. Great to have students interact with a published author. The fact that they were specially selected group to attend was great for confidence. Parents commented students came home "buzzing" about the experience.

Our students appreciated the different style presented with less structure. They liked the author strategy of 4 chosen words. All loved being in an outdoor setting."

- Melissa Fraser, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

"A teacher who is in the first two years of her teaching career attended the workshop. She said it was so inspiring to see how she could get the students to write and how to become engaged and interested.

It was just so valuable to her as a new teacher and she felt so inspired herself to get back into the classroom and try out Tristan's techniques with her class!

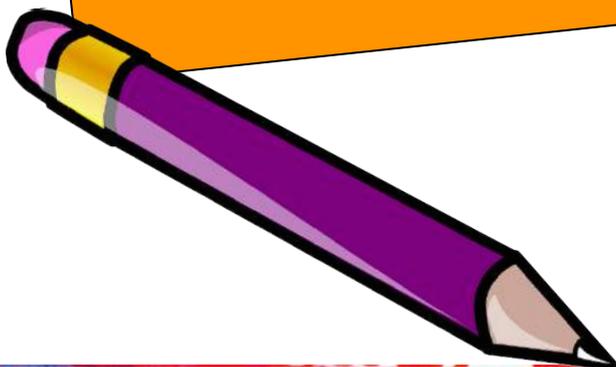
I think that speaks for itself in just how wonderful the workshop was and how highly valuable the session would be to ALL teachers to renew their passion for teaching writing and to teach it well."

- Gabriel Cooper Woodburn Public School

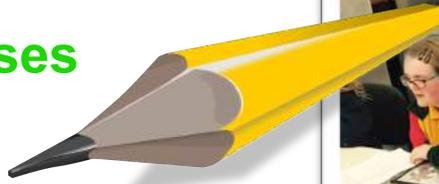
Best things about the workshop:

"Observing how Jesse got students motivated to write and inspire them with her enthusiasm... freedom to write and not be restricted with spelling - freedom with ideas and different places to write for inspiration."

- Jennifer Blair, Lennox Head Public School.



Masterclasses



In 2017, StoryBoard ‘adopted’ the Lismore Young Writers Master Class, which Jesse Blackadder had been running pro bono with Lismore Library since August 2015.

The monthly group was for young writers – with ages ranging from 9-19 plus a parent member. Every meeting the group worked on fiction and non-fiction, collaboratively and individually. Writing exercise and sharing work – plus pizza and the occasional lollies – were regular parts of the 1.5 hour format.

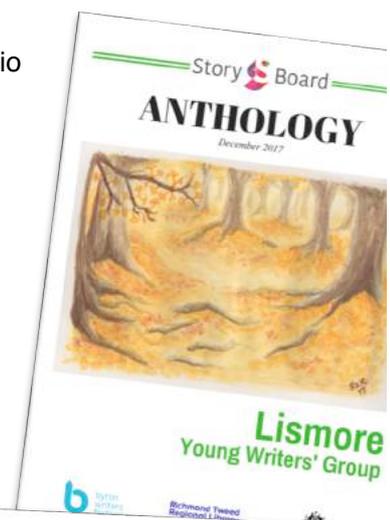
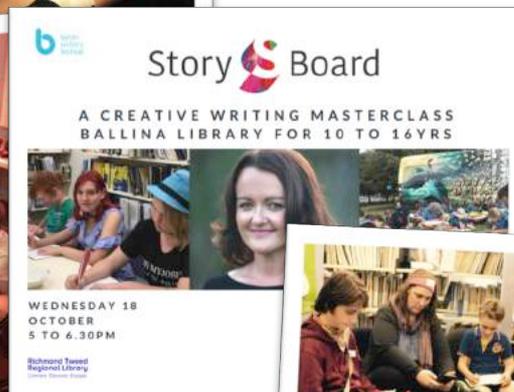
In 2017 the group was so productive that Jesse created two anthologies of work by members. There was an end of year prize for the best stories by members, won by Izabella Demkin-French with second place going to Sarvah Zoe Rayner. Jesse remained the lead tutor, and was helped by Tristan Bancks, Sarah Armstrong and Zanni Louise.

StoryBoard ran free masterclasses for young writers at the Ballina community library once a month throughout 2017. A group of 10-16 kids, aged 8-16 gathered to free write, follow writing prompts, read work out loud, and learn new writing techniques.

The 1.5 hour evening masterclasses were run interchangeably by middle grade author Samantha Turnbull, and picture book author, Zanni Louise. A StoryBoard volunteer helped each session, and snacks were provided.

Each session focused on a different theme, like finding your narrative voice, editing work or growing ideas. Many young writers returned month after month, and strong friendships were formed. The group also welcomed new writers almost every session.

At the end of the year, Samantha Turnbull spent three sessions developing stories with the young writers, then used her audio production skills to record authors reading their stories aloud. The stories were collated as an audio file.



The North Coast Floods

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie wreaked havoc on the North Coast in late March 2017.



Flood-stricken library welcomed young writers

On Thursday 6 April 2017, a week after the devastating floods, staff at Lismore Library were determined that the Young Writers' StoryBoard Masterclass would go ahead – in spite of the fact the library's bottom floor had been flooded, the upper floors were crowded with rescued items, and it had been closed for a week.

Around 15 kids, aged 11-16 (plus one parent who has joined the group), made their way through the devastated town, through the peeling paint and damp floors at ground level, and up into the first floor of the library. The librarians set us up and we took over the empty building. We closed our eyes and imagined what had happened over the previous week, and then we set to work.

From a koala stuck on a fence post, to worst enemies stuck on a raft, to a married couple deciding to divorce, to acts of courage and fear - it all poured into the page. Everyone had something to say about their experiences – real or fictional. Fear, guilt, inspiration, awe – we went through the gamut of raw emotions.

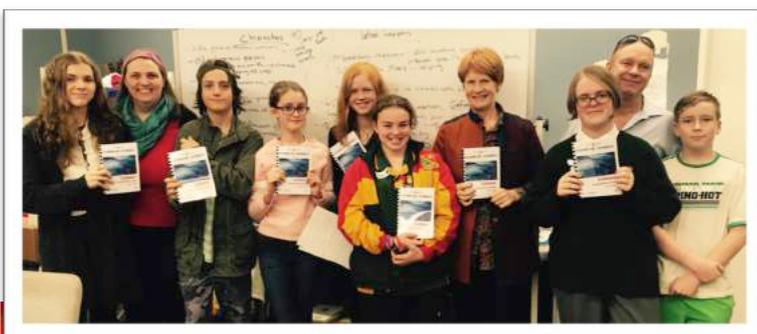
The anthology *Flood of Stories* was the result.

Storyboard author and kids evacuated

“On the day that Murwillumbah East Primary School went underwater I was giving a Storyboard presentation to several hundred kids in the school hall. The school literally shut down around me, kids were leaving the hall as their parents and buses arrived and, like a violinist on the *Titanic*, I was encouraged to continue to read, to tell stories and have fun. Teachers later commented that, under very difficult circumstances, it was the best possible scenario – all the kids together in the hall and being told stories to take their minds off what may otherwise been a traumatic morning.

“The school library went under that day and they lost most of their books. My publisher donated copies of all of my books and other publishers gave books, too, in order to get the library back on its feet. I returned to the school several months later and the students shared stories, both tragic and life-affirming, of the events of that day and I helped them to get those stories down on the page. Storyboard played a valuable role in helping these kids in an extraordinarily difficult time.”

- Tristan Bancks



Goals and achievements

STORYBOARD PROGRAM REACH AND VISITS	Goal for visits	Actual visits	Goal for work-shops run	Actual work-shops run	Goal for children reached in work-shops (avg. 25)	Actual children reached in work-shops	Extra children reached in presentations	Total children reached
Term One school visits	10	9	10	9	225	282	287	569
Term Two school visits	30	29	30	37	750	1065	1337	2402
Term Three school visits	20	22	20	28	500	797	1897	2694
Term Four school visits	20	27	20	31	500	835	543	1378
TOTALS	80	87	80	105	1975	2979	4064	7043
Term One Masterclasses	4	4	4	4	100	59	n/a	59
Term Two Masterclasses	9	7	9	7	225	88	n/a	88
Term Three Masterclasses	9	9	9	9	225	65	n/a	65
Term Four Masterclasses	9	12	9	12	225	151	n/a	151
TOTAL MASTER CLASSES	31	20	31	20	775	218	-	363
School Holiday Workshops	3	1	3	1	75	17	-	17
TOTAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS	3	1	3	1	75	17	-	17
Festival StoryBoard workshops	2	3	2	3	50	60	-	60
TOTAL FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS	2	3	2	3	50	60	-	60
TOTALS	116	121	116	141	2875	3399	4064	7483

Budget and expenditure 2017

StoryBoard Bus Budget

The StoryBoard bus purchase was funded by grants from the Stronger Communities Program and Create NSW (then Arts NSW). The grants came into the 2016/17 financial year. As StoryBoard operates on a calendar year, and as these were one-off capital expenditure funds, this expenditure is reported here, separately from our operations budget.

We had permission from our funding agencies to carry the unspent funds into the operational budget for vehicle maintenance costs and for marketing development in 2017.

STORYBOARD BUS PURCHASE INCOME SUMMARY	2016/17 budget
Income	
Stronger Communities Grant	20,000
Create NSW special allocation	50,000
Total	70,000

STORYBOARD BUS PURCHASE EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	2016/17 budget
Expenditure	
Bus purchase	26,300
Graphic design concept and artwork for bus	2,661
Fit out (interior and exterior)	31,722
Maintenance	766
Unexpended funds	8,551
Total	70,000

Operations Budget 2017

The calendar year operations budget covers the ongoing costs of delivering the program. With permission from funding agencies, we were able to use unexpended funds from the bus purchase for certain agreed costs in 2017.

STORYBOARD PROJECT INCOME SUMMARY	2017 budget
Income	
Catalyst grant (Australian Government)	100,000
Byron Writers Festival in kind support (staff time, admin)	5,000
Create NSW grant (part of Byron Writers Festival multi year funding)	30,000
Byron Writers Festival cash funding	16,000
Byron Writers Festival 2016 StoryBoard unexpended funds	12,675
Bus purchase unexpended funds carried into operations	8,551
Total	172,226

STORYBOARD PROJECT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	2017 budget	2017 actual
Expenditure		
Author/presenter costs	70,000	73,394
Author airfares and accommodation	10,000	5,892
Bus and workshop travel expenses (petrol, per diems etc)	15,000	13,248
StoryBoard resources (books, film, supplies, printing & consumables)	5,000	7,466
Project salaries and admin (Byron Writers Festival in-kind)	5,000	5,000
Project staff salaries and admin (Create NSW and Byron Writers Festival cash component)	42,000	35,033
Miscellaneous items	0	696
Motor vehicle costs (insurance, green slip, rego, parking)	3,500	3,500
Marketing (StoryBoard brand development)	5,000	5,000
Contingency	16,726	51
Total expenditure	172,226	149,280
Profit/loss		+22,946

Storyboard Presenters 2017

Leigh Hobbs (visiting author – StoryBoard launch – Australian Children’s Laureate)

Leigh Hobbs, best-selling author of more than 20 books, including the iconic *Old Tom*, *Mr Chicken Goes to Paris* and *Horrible Harriet* was the Australian Children's Laureate for 2016 – 2017. He is best known for his children's books featuring his characters Old Tom, Horrible Harriet and Fiona the Pig and Mr Chicken, as well as the Freaks and their teachers in 4F for *Freaks* and *Freaks Ahoy*. *Old Tom* has been adapted into an extremely popular TV series. Leigh has three times been shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award (for *Mr Chicken Goes to Paris*, *Horrible Harriet* and *Old Tom's Holiday*) and his books have won every major children's choice award in Australia.

Tristan Bancks (local author, StoryBoard regular)

Tristan Bancks is a children's and teen author with a background in acting and filmmaking. His books include the My Life series, *Mac Slater* (Australia and US) and *Two Wolves (On the Run)* in the US), a crime-mystery novel for middle-graders. *Two Wolves* won Honour Book in the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards and was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. It also won the YABBA and KOALA Children's Choice Awards. Tristan's new books are *My Life & Other Weaponised Muffins* (February 2017), a fifth book of weird-funny-gross, semi-autobiographical short stories and *The Fall* (May 2017), a new thriller novel for ages 10+ which is shortlisted for the 2018 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. *My Life & Other Failed Experiments* is due for release in July 2018.

Zanni Louise (local author, StoryBoard regular)

Zanni Louise is a children's author based on North Coast NSW. Zanni's first book *Too Busy Sleeping*, was long-listed for the CBCA Book of the Year awards, 2016. Her second book, *Archie and the Bear*, has appeared on bestseller lists. Zanni will release eight books for children in the next two years: *Errol*, *Dewey Decimal* and a picture book series *Tiggy and the Magic Paintbrush*. Zanni's books have sold to foreign territories, US, China, Korea, Germany, Slovenia and Denmark. When not writing, Zanni runs bookmaking and writing workshops and tours schools across NSW, Melbourne, southern QLD, and appears at festivals.

Jesse Blackadder (local author, StoryBoard regular)

Jesse Blackadder has entertained audiences aged four to 94 in Australia and internationally with her tales of writing, researching, and unusual creatures. Passionate about becoming a vet from childhood, she ended up becoming an author instead and has written a junior series about friendships between humans and animals. A fibreglass seeing eye dog sets sail for the frozen south in *Stay: The Last Dog in Antarctica*. A young rider tries to save a wild horse in danger in *Paruku The Desert Brumby*, and a city kid has to draw on all her courage to save a koala from a cyclone in *Dexter the Courageous Koala*. She has also published four novels for adults.

Lucas Proudfoot (local author, StoryBoard regular)

Lucas Proudfoot is a local Indigenous cultural performer and published author: He is one of Australia's most versatile children's performers playing guitar, didgeridoo and stomp box to over 150,000 kids annually. When he's not mixing it up on stage he's writing the next installment of *The ProudFoots* adventure series. Lucas invites young audiences to learn about Indigenous cultures through a live show full of fun and interaction. Lucas is also a surfer, award-winning songwriter, and a proud member of the Tweed Coast Aboriginal and Islander community. He lives on the Gold Coast

Samantha Turnbull (local author, StoryBoard regular)

Samantha Turnbull is the author of *The Anti-Princess Club* series. She specialises in stories featuring strong girls. Sam's 'mama blog' is where she writes about her quest to convince her six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son that girls and boys can like the same stuff, most princesses are kind of boring, and self-worth should have nothing to do with what you see in the mirror. It's also where you'll find her musing about her life in general in beautiful Byron Bay. Sam is also a slam poet. Sam's 'real' job is multimedia journalist with the ABC.

Sarah Armstrong (local author, StoryBoard regular)

Sarah Armstrong has written three novels. *Salt Rain* was published by Allen & Unwin in 2004 and shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award, the Queensland Premier's Literary Prize and the Dobbie Literary Award. *Salt Rain* was published in the United States by MacAdam/Cage. *His Other House* was published in 2015 by Pan Macmillan and came out in Germany. Sarah's third novel *Promise* was published by Pan Macmillan in 2016 and came out in Germany and The Netherlands. Audible audiobooks produced *Promise* and *His Other House* in 2016. Previously, she was a journalist at the ABC, where she won a Walkley Award.

Jenni Cargill-Strong (local storyteller, StoryBoard regular)

Jenni Cargill-Strong is a professional storyteller and owner/operator of 'The Story Tree Company' and 'Stories on Foot: Tales of Byron Bay and the Rainbow Region'. Her passions and expertise are focused on stories of place, stories to celebrate the earth, stories to heal, to strengthen community and myths which express the divine feminine. She offers school shows, public concerts and festival performances for adults and children, as well as face-to-face and online training in storytelling, environmental storytelling and public speaking, including private coaching. Jenni teaches the Storytelling Unit at Southern Cross University.

Carly Lorente

Carly studied writing at the Australian Writer's Centre. She is a photographer, freelance journalist and author and has been published in *Archer*, *Mindfood*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, *Green*, *Wellbeing*, and *SummerWinter*. In 2013, she was the winner of the Editia Books Narrative Journalism Prize and in 2015 a recipient of the Northern Rivers Screenworks Inside the Writer's Room mentorship.

Oliver Phommavanh (visiting author – 2017 southern tour)

Oliver is a Thai-Australian writer for children. He has featured on panels at the Sydney Writers' Festival and other festival and writing event as well as in blogs. He has worked as a primary school teacher. He spends his time writing and sharing his writing passion with kids and engaging them with humour. He's also a stand-up comedian appearing on national TV and radio. His first book, *Thai-riffic!*, was published in June 2010 to critical acclaim, followed by *Con-nerd* in 2011, *Punchlines* and *Thai-no-mite* in 2012, *Ethan in the Stuff Happens* series in 2015, and *The Other Christy* in 2016.

Belinda Murrell (visiting author – 2017 southern tour)

Belinda Murrell has worked as a travel journalist, technical writer, editor and public relations consultant. Her overseas adventures inspired her work as a travel writer for the *West Australian* newspaper and *Out & About With Kids* travel magazine. Her work has also appeared in the *Sun Herald*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. Belinda studied Children's Literature at Macquarie University. Belinda's books include the *Sun Sword* fantasy trilogy, *The Locket of Dreams* and *The Ruby Talisman*.

Zacharey Jane (local author, and coordinator of 2017 StoryBoard/Festival tour)

Zacharey Jane's novel *The Life Boat* was shortlisted for the Barbara Jefferis Award and her picture book *Tobias Blow* is on the NSW Premier's Reading List. She has been the intrepid manager of the festival roadshow tour for the past four years.

Sophie Green (visiting author – 2017 StoryBoard/Festival tour)

Sophie Hamley is a publisher at Hachette Australia. As Sophie Green she is the author of *The Inaugural Meeting of the Fairvale Ladies Book Club*, published in Australia, the UK and Europe.

Miles Merrill (visiting author – 2017 StoryBoard/Festival tour)

Performing writer, Miles Merrill directs the literary arts organisation Word Travels and is founder of the international spoken-word program: Australian Poetry Slam.

Jennifer Down (visiting author – 2017 StoryBoard/Festival tour)

Jennifer Down is the author of *Pulse Points* (2017). Her debut novel *Our Magic Hour* was highly commended in the 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards.

StoryBoard Activities 2017

DATE	AUTHOR	SCHOOL
Fri 1 Mar	Tristan Bancks & Coralie Tapper	Lismore Library Masterclass
Thu 14 Mar	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Tue 19 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Holy Family Catholic Primary School: Skennars Head
Wed 20 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Empire Vale Ballina Primary: South Ballina
Thu 21 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Wyrallah Public School
Fri 22 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Byron High School
Sat 23 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Crabbes Creek Public School
Tue 26 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Nimbin Central School
Wed 27 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Cabbage Tree Island- Wardell
Thu 28 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Main Arm Public School
Fri 29 Mar	Tristan Bancks	Murwillumbah East Public School
Fri 5 Apr	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Thu 18 Apr	Zachary Jane	Ballina Library Masterclass
Fri 19 Apr	Tristan Bancks	Tristan Bancks- Writing Safari
Fri 26 Apr	Jesse Blackadder	Tunable Creek PS
Sat 27 Apr	Tristan Bancks & Leigh Hobbs	Byron Public School
Tue 30 Apr	Lucas Proudfoot	Goonengery PS
Wed 1 May	Lucas Proudfoot	Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
Thu 2 May	Lucas Proudfoot	Ocean Shores Public School
Thu 4 May	Lucas Proudfoot	Duranbah Public School Fingal Heads PS
Fri 3 May	Lucas Proudfoot	Fingal Heads PS
Thu 4 May	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Sat 4 May	Lucas Proudfoot	Larnook Public School
Tue 7 May	Tristan Bancks	Murwillumbah East Public School
Tue 14 May	Zanni Louise	Newrybar Public School
Wed 15 May	Zanni Louise	Burringbar PS & Crabbes Creek
Wed 15 May	Zanni Louise	Future Dreamers
Thu 16 May	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thu 16 May	Sarah Armstrong	Shearwater High
Fri 17 May	Sarah Armstrong	Kingscliff High School
Tue 21 May	Tristan Bancks	St Mary's College
Wed 22 May	Tristan Bancks	Our Lady Help of Christians Parish School
Thu 23 May	Tristan Bancks	Broadwater Public School
Fri 24 May	Tristan Bancks	Alstonville Public School
Sat 25 May	Tristan Bancks	St Joseph's Primary School Coraki
Tue 28 May	Sarah Armstrong	Mullumbimby High school
Wed 29 May	Sarah Armstrong	Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
Thu 30 May	Sarah Armstrong	Kadina High School Goonellebah
Fri 31 May	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Tue 4 Jun	Samantha Turnbull	Rosebank PS
Tue 4 Jun	Zanni Louise	Rous Public School
Wed 5 Jun	Samantha Turnbull	Southern Cross Public School
Thu 6 Jun	Samantha Turnbull	Blakebrook Public School
Fri 7 Jun	Samantha Turnbull	Yamba Public School
Sat 8 Jun	Samantha Turnbull	Lismore Heights Public School
Wed 12 Jun	Zanni Louise	Future Dreamers
Sat 15 Jun	Tristan Bancks	St Ambrose Public School: Pottsville

Thu 20 Jun	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Fri 28 Jun	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Wed 17 Jul	Zanni Louise	Future Dreamers
Thu 18 Jul	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Tue 30 Jul	Byron Writers Festival StoryBoard Road Trip Jennifer Down, Miles Merrill, Sophie Green	Casino High
Wed 31 Jul	Jennifer Down, Miles Merrill, Sophie Green	Glen Innes High
Thu 1 Aug	Jennifer Down, Miles Merrill, Sophie Green	Tenterfield High
Fri 2 Aug	Zanni Louise	Lismore Library Masterclass
Mon 5 Aug	Zanni Louise	Byron Writers Festival KIDS BIG DAY OUT Storyboard Workshop
Thu 15 Aug	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Wed 14 Aug	Lucas Proudfoot	Pottsville Public School
Fri 16 Aug	Lucas Proudfoot	Dungay
Sat 17 Aug	Lucas Proudfoot	St Josephs Primary South Murwillumbah
Tue 20 Aug	Jesse Blackadder	Coffee Camp Public School
Wed 21 Aug	Jesse Blackadder	Richmond River High School
Thu 22 Aug	Zanni Louise	Tintenbar/ Teven
Fri 23 Aug	Jesse Blackadder	St John's Mullumbimby
Sat 24 Aug	Jesse Blackadder	Lennox Head Public School
Tue 27 Aug	Tristan Bancks	Uki Public School
Wed 28 Aug	Tristan Bancks	Alstonville High School
Thu 29 Aug	Tristan Bancks	Woodburn PS
Fri 30 Aug	Tristan Bancks	Durrumbul PS
Sat 31 Aug	Tristan Bancks	Byron Community School
Thu 5 Sep	Zanni Louise	Evans River Community School
Fri 6 Sep	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Wed 11 Sep	Zanni Louise	Dunoon Primary School
Thu 12 Sep	Zanni Louise	St Finbarr's Primary School
Fri 13 Sep	Zanni Louise	Wollongbar
Mon 18 Sep	Lucas Proudfoot	Rainbow Ridge Steiner School
Wed 18 Sep	Lucas Proudfoot	Mullumbimby Public School
Thu 19 Sep	Zanni Louise	Ballina Library Masterclass
Fri 11 Oct	Sarah Armstrong	Lismore Library Masterclass
Wed 16 Oct	Samantha Turnbull	The Pocket Public School
Thu 17 Oct	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Thu 19 Oct	Carly Lorente	Future Dreamers
Fri 18 Oct	Jenni Cargill Strong	Eltham Public School
Fri 20 Oct	Zanni Louise	Afterlee Public
Tue 24 Oct	Zanni Louise	Vistara Primary School
Thu 26 Oct	Carly Lorente	Future Dreamers
Wed 30 Oct	Jesse Blackadder	Coorabell Public School
Thu 31 Oct	Jenni Cargill Strong	Rappville Public School, Manifold Public School and Doubtful Creek Public School
Thu 2 Nov	Carly Lorente	Future Dreamers
Fri 1 Nov	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Thu 9 Nov	Carly Lorente	Future Dreamers
Thu 9 Nov	Lucas Proudfoot	Jiggi Public School

Mon 13th Nov	Lucas Proudfoot	Ballina Public School
Tue 14th Nov	Lucas Proudfoot	Sathya Sai School Murwillumbah
Wed 15th Nov	Lucas Proudfoot	Corndale Upper Coopers Creek & Whian Whian
Thu 14 Nov	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass
Fri 17 Nov	Zanni Louise	Northern Rivers Home School Group
Tue 19 Nov	Oliver phommavanh and Belinda Murrell	Westlawn Primary School
Wed 20 Nov	Oliver phommavanh and Belinda Murrell	Bellingen Library
Thu 21 Nov	Oliver phommavanh and Belinda Murrell	Kempsey Library hosted 4 schools: Kempsey South Primary School Kempsey South Public School Smithtown Public School Kachina Public School
Thu 23 Nov	Oliver phommavanh and Belinda Murrell	SW Rocks Public School
Fri 24 Nov	Zanni Louise	Northern Rivers Home School Group
Tue 3 Dec	Tristan Bancks	Bangalow Public School
Wed 4 Dec	Tristan Bancks	Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
Thu 7 Dec	Jesse Blackadder	Coorabell Public School
Fri 6 Dec	Jesse Blackadder	Lismore Library Masterclass
Sat 7 Dec	Jesse Blackadder	Richmond River High School
Sat 9 Dec	Jesse Blackadder and Zanni Louise	Richmond Tweed Mobile Library at Heritage House
Tue 10 Dec	Zanni Louise	Casino Public School
Wed 13 Dec	Samantha Turnbull	Ballina Library Masterclass





The Future

These are exciting times for StoryBoard.

We're now in the second year of our Catalyst funding and have had a little time to catch our breath. We achieved most of our stated goals in 2017 (and surpassed many).

We're looking forward and thinking about how to improve StoryBoard, deepen our connection with young people, and better understand the effects of our work. We are also considering how we can work with teachers and educators to improve their abilities to teach creative writing.

Our priorities for 2018 are to:

1. Maintain our bank of exceptional storytellers in chief to deliver the program
2. Run the StoryBoard bus as a work of art that 'keeps it weird' and promotes creativity
3. Successfully deliver workshops to schools in 2018
4. Develop focus programs that offer more in depth and repeated work with kids
5. Develop inspiring, effective and ground breaking workshops and materials
6. Extend the program to teachers and educators
6. Reward students for creativity
7. Attract and keep responsible and reliable volunteers to help deliver the program
8. Ensure that StoryBoard and Byron Writers Festival contribute to, enhance, and support each other
9. Maintain the financial viability of StoryBoard in the long term
10. Robustly assess, evaluate and reflect on the program.

See you on the other side!